

FARM AND HOUSEHOLD.

Why Orchard's Decay.

A correspondent of the Valley Farmer says orchards have died or become poor from these causes:

1. The exhaustion of the soil from the constant crops of apples; from the blowing away by the wind of the leaves of the tree which nature designed to feed the soil on which the tree stands by the crops of grass, grain or roots constantly taken from the same ground and little return of substance to it.
2. Another means of their destruction has been in whipping the trees with poles to remove the apples. And still another cause was the pasturage among them.
3. To restore them.—If any were left worth restoring, man must cease to crop the ground under them, and must manure them with vegetable mold, decaying leaves, lime, wood-ashes and salt. A compost formed of these substances would be excellent; or one formed in part by saw-logs and refuse slops, chip-dirt, turf, etc., well rotted.

Then trim off all dead limbs, and those that cross and gall each other, and all suckers, not necessary for a crop.

A GOOD COW AND HOW HE KEEPS HER.—Charles D. Hart of McLean, N. Y., who sold butter thirty or forty years ago for a shilling a pound, stated that for the past sixteen years he had but one cow. The past season I made and sold up to December 1,400 pounds besides what the family used, and have thirty pounds put up for the winter. She is eight years old. In 1869 I sold 340 pounds; in 1868, 312 pounds; keep butter to supply us the year round. Her feed is common pasture, plenty running water, shade, one pint of corn meal, and one quart of wheat bran twice a day. Her mother and grandmother were extra cows for richness of milk and for quantity, and all would dry up as soon as cold weather set in, and go dry about three months.

IMPORTANCE OF AIRING BEDS.—The desire of an energetic housekeeper to have her work done at an early hour in the morning causes her to leave one of the most important items of neatness undone. The most effectual purifying of bed and bedclothes cannot take place if the proper time is not allowed for the free circulation of pure air to remove all human impurities which have collected during the hours of slumber. At least two or three hours should be allowed for the complete removal of atoms of insensible perspiration which are absorbed by the bed. Every day this airing should be done; and occasionally bedding constantly used should be carried into the open air, and when practicable, left exposed to the sun and wind for half a day.

How to Cook Old Fowls.—For the possible benefit to some other young housekeepers; I wish to tell them how to cook an old chicken. Prepare as for roasting, then boil three hours in a covered pot, with one quart of water, to which add two tablespoonful of vinegar, after which put into a pan in a hot oven for about one hour, to brown. The liquor in the pot to be prepared for gravy: should the water boil away too much more should be added. The result is the meat is as tender as a young chicken, and some think richer and better.

FAMILY PEACE.—It is recorded that an emperor of China, once making a progress through his dominions; was, by chance, entertained in a house in which the master, with his wife, children, daughter-in-law, grand children and servants, all lived together in perfect peace and harmony. The emperor, struck with admiration at the spectacle, requested the head of the family to inform him what means he used to preserve quiet among such a number and variety of persons. The old man taking out his pencil, wrote these words: Patience—patience—patience.

WHITE BREAD.—Take 1 pint of new milk, 1 pint of boiling water, and mix with 6 good-sized potatoes, well-boiled and mashed; stir in a large spoonful of salt, the same of sugar, and flour enough to make a stiff batter; set it in a warm place to rise, and when it has risen so as to double its quantity stir in more flour, and knead it slightly; then divide it into 3 loaves, putting them into deep tins, and when they have again risen as before, bake in a moderate oven.

Persons have great difficulty, often in getting their celery seed to come up. If they will adopt the following plan, they will seldom fail in growing fine celery; Get a box of sand and sprinkle your seed over it, keep it very moist; in a short time the seed will come up, when large enough take them out and plant in a hot bed, and let them remain until the time for transplanting.

An old farmer, who evidently knows what he is talking about, advises those engaged in agriculture to quit pulling fodder, and raise clover, timothy, etc., for forage.

1871.

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